

LIBRARY

DRIFFIELD
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of
Health.

For the Year 1946.

Driffield:

Printed by Horsley & Dawson, 73, Middle Street South.

DRIFFIELD RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

for 1946.

Officers of the Sanitary Authority.

The Clerk	....	....	....	....	Mr. R. B. TOLLETT.
Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor					F. H. MARGERRISON, Cert. R., San. I. M.S.I.A.
Medical Officer	....	....	....	....	ALAN MILNER, M.B., Ch.B.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I herewith present my Annual Report for the year 1946. Section B, C, D. and E, are compiled by the Sanitary Inspector. It is regretted that this report is late in its publication. Unfortunately poor health and lack of qualified assistants has placed more work on our Sanitary Inspector than he is able to cope with. Indeed, it can be said, that paper work, returns, &c., have increased to an appalling degree since pre-war.

Statistically, the health of the population in this area has been very good during the year. Any general practitioner, however, will tell you that the people in general lack resistance to disease, and are slow in recuperation after illness. They are not anxious to get back to work, and this can only be attributable to the diet and the general "tiredness" and lack of incentive.

The housing conditions deteriorate year by year, and the building programme is merely a trickle of what is really required to re-house the agricultural workers.

Owing to the necessity of applying for licences for minor repairs to property—the necessary red tape and difficulty in obtaining them, much work is neglected which might be done by the local small builder.

2.

VITAL STATISTICS.

Area	....	....	....	....	....	98,423 acres
Estimated Population	....	....	....	....	....	9,689
Rateable Value	....	....	....	....	....	£32,690
Product of a Penny Rate	....	....	....	....	....	£130/1/10

BIRTHS.

Live Births.

				Total	M.	F.
1. Total Births	....	....	....	181	88	93
2. Legitimate	....	....	....	155	77	78
3. Illegitimate	....	....	....	26	11	15

Still Births.

1. Total	....	....	....	2	1	1
2. Legitimate	....	....	....	2	1	1
3. Illegitimate	....	....	....	0	0	0

Deaths.

1. All ages	....	....	....	121	65	56
2. Infants under 1 year.	....	....	....	3	2	1
Legitimate	....	....	....	3	2	1
Illegitimate	....	....	....	0	0	0
Birth Rate	....	....	....	18.6 per 1000 population.		
Illegitimate Birth Rate	....	....	....	2.6 per 1000 population.		
Stillbirth Rate	....	....	....	11.04 per 1000 Births		
Death Rate	....	....	....	10.2 per 1000 population.		
Death Rate. Infants under 1 year.	....	....	....	.39 per 1000 population.		
Infantile Mortality Rate	....	....	....	16.5 per 1000 Live Births		

Causes of Death.

Tuberculosis	....	....	....	....	....	1
Influenza	....	....	....	....	....	4
Acute Inf. Encephalitis	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cancer	....	....	....	....	....	2
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum	....	....	....	....	....	3
Cancer of Breast	....	....	....	....	....	1
Cancer of all other sites	....	....	....	....	....	9
Diabetes	....	....	....	....	....	1
Intra cranial Vascular Lesions	....	....	....	....	....	14
Heart Disease	....	....	....	....	....	26
Other diseases of Circulatory System	....	....	....	....	....	4
Bronchitis	....	....	....	....	....	5
Pneumonia	....	....	....	....	....	5

Other Respiratory Diseases ....	....	....	....	....	5
Appendicitis ....	....	....	....	....	3
Other Respiratory Diseases ....	....	....	....	....	4
Premature Birth ....	....	....	....	....	1
Congenital Debility ....	....	....	....	....	1
Road Traffic Accidents ....	....	....	....	....	1
Other Violent Causes ....	....	....	....	....	4
All other Causes ....	....	....	....	....	26

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

I have, in my previous Annual Reports, referred to the general water supply of the district as being a piped supply, owned and operated by the Council. The position at the end of the year remains the same. Supervision of the scheme is maintained by the Council's Engineer and Manager, C. B. Newton, Esq., M. Inst., C.E., of Hull, with a resident superintendent at the Hutton Pumping Station.

It is a good supply both as regards quality and quantity, there being adequate supply at the source which is constant and well serves the area within the limits of the mains.

Beyond the limits of the mains, the old order still obtains and this section of the district is dependent on private wells, some shallow, others deep, artesian wells and rainwater cisterns.

The main Pumping Station is situate at Hutton, at the foot of the Wolds and in the southern part of the district. An Auxiliary Pumping Station is located at Nafferton Wold, which is the old Nafferton Waterworks brought into use again.

The Supply at the Hutton Pumping Station is obtained from a borehole 86 feet deep, sited within the pump-house building, and is chlorinated at the source by means of a "Wallace and Tierman's" set of equipment. The water is lifted and forced through the mains by electrically driven pumps. Division of the district into two areas requires the provision of two distinct sets of pumping equipment, each of which is in duplicate.

At the Nafferton Auxiliary Station the water is obtained from a well 216 feet deep with a borehole a further 50 feet deep, sited within the pump-house building, and water is raised into the Pressure Head Reservoirs here by means of a single pump operated by a crude-oil engine. There is still no chlorination carried out here.

Mains radiating from the Hutton Pumping Station serve the major portion of the district. The Two Areas of supply are (a) the "Western Area" which is the higher or "Wolds" part and include all that part west of a line drawn to embrace Langtoft, Cottam (excluding Cottam R.A.F. Station), Garton, Kirkburn, Southburn, Bainton and Middleton, and (b) the "Eastern Area," the flat part, which includes Kilham, Nafferton, Cottam R.A.F. Station, Wansford, Skerne, Hutton, Cranswick, Cranswick R.A.F. Station, and all to the east with the exception of Watton village, Brigham and Harpham.

For the "Western Area," there are Three Pressure Head Reservoirs sited at "Summit," "Towthorpe," and "Collingwood." Water is delivered to "Summit" direct from the Hutton Pumping Station, and "Towthorpe" and "Collingwood" via Booster Stations situate at Wetwang and Garton respectively. Each Booster set is in duplicate. All rising mains serve as service mains.

The "Eastern Area" Pressure Head Reservoir is at Nafferton Wold, on the site of the old Nafferton Waterworks, and it is here where the Auxiliary supply augments this area supply. The rising main from Hutton Station serves also a service main on its way up. From this Reservoir a supply is boosted up to the Cottam R.A.F. Station at Kilham West Field, farms being supplied on the way up. The Boosters, each set of which is in duplicate, are operated by crude-oil engine power.

Further "laid on" supplies from the mains have been installed in houses and farms and the estimated numbers of houses, approximately 2,350 affecting 8,340 of the population, taking their supplies from the mains are increased by 10 and 40 respectively, these figures including all those supplied from public stand-taps. The numbers of new connections made during the year were, 80 houses and farms, 25 field services, 2 garages, 1 market garden, 1 Church, and 2 Schools; 3 connections were made for purposes of building Council houses at Beeford (2) and North Frodingham (1).

As previously stated, those parts of the district beyond the limits of the mains, which includes the villages of Brigham, Harpham and Watton and isolated houses and farms, are still in need of the facilities enjoyed in the more fortunate populous areas. This fact has not been lost sight of by the Water Committee and many schemes for extensions have been, and still are, under consideration. Minor extensions of the mains have been carried out at Breeze Lane, Beeford, and Frodingham Grange Road, North Frodingham, in the "Eastern Area," and at Bainton Road, Tibthorpe in the "Western Area."

In the early part of the year the section of main from the Hutton Pumping Station, via Sunderlandwick, to the Driffeld R.A.F. Station, was taken over by the Council from the War Department.

During the year 14 samples of water from various points in the mains system have been forwarded to the Clinical Research Association's Laboratory for limited bacteriological examination and all reports on them have been satisfactory.

Regarding private supplies, 7 samples were submitted for full bacteriological examination in respect of supplies to 6 dairy farms. Reports on 3 were satisfactory, the other 4 (in respect of 3 supplies) being unsatisfactory. In 2 of the latter, supplies were being arranged from the Council's mains and in the other case the borehole is being cleaned out with a view to a wholesome supply being provided.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The characters and efficiency of the drainage and sewerage of the district remains substantially the same as contained in all my previous reports. The whole of the existing sewers need revision, and outfalls are very much out-of-date and are not in any way equal to the work required of them.

All the outfalls have received attention, and Open Drains which serve as "Disposals" from covered main drains conveying collections of "sullage" from private drains of villages in the lower part of the district have been attended to in the usual way by cleaning out to remove sewage deposits from them. All this work has been of a routine nature and was carried out by the Council's workmen under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector's Assistant.

I have repeatedly pointed out that proper Sewerage and Sewage Disposal is necessary if satisfactory conditions regarding this service are to be obtained. With a "mains" water supply available, the demand is for a water carriage system whereby installation of water closets can be effected, but the existing systems are either totally inadequate or unable to deal with faecal matter. Some of the larger villages are without any means of sewage disposal and have to rely solely on open drains for this purpose. In many instances, private settling tanks with filters are installed to deal with soil drainage; this method of disposal is adopted in isolated places and is recommended, providing there is sufficient fall to give efficient filtration.

The Sewerage and Sewage Disposal Schemes preparer by D. H. Moore, Esq., BSc., A.M.Inst.C.E., of Scarborough, have been considered and submitted to the East Riding County Council for their consideration, but at the end of the year nothing had appeared in tangible form to show that progress had been made.

Closet Accommodation.

Conversion of pail closets and privy middens to W.C.'s received some attention during the year, although control of civil building somewhat curbed these activities. All these conversions were carried out privately and the question of sewage disposal was one which always loomed largely when consideration was being given to these projects.

At the end of the year the approximate numbers of the various types of accommodation were 354 W.C.'s, 2,310 Pail closets and 390 Privy Middens, and from these figures it will be seen that little progress is being made in the direction of conversion from "Conservancy" to "Water Carriage" system of removal of faecal matter. The chief obstacle to any progress being made, is the need for proper sewerage and sewage disposal.

Scavenging and Cleansing.

The work of scavenging has been carried out exactly as in previous years. There is no change in procedure except that, owing to breakdown of the Council's lorry, a hired vehicle had to be engaged.

Nafferton is still the only village where "Night Soil" collection is undertaken and the work is carried out by contract. The contents of pail closets are collected weekly by the Contractor and disposed of by him on land for manurial purposes; there are now only five privy middens and these received regular attention.

In the remainder of the district the cleansing of pail closets, privies and ashpits, is the responsibility of the tenants. Regarding the cleansing of cesspools, the Council have no facilities for and do not undertake this service.

The Driffield R.A.F. Station, which lies in the parish of Kirkburn, is scavenged bi-weekly. As previously stated, owing to breakdown of the Council's lorry a hired vehicle had to be engaged to carry on the work of collection from both the R.A.F. Station and all the villages in the district.

For the purposes of collection of indestructible household refuse the district is divided into eight areas or groups of villages. Each area is visited on either the first, second, third or fourth Thursday or Friday of each month, and by this arrangement each village is visited once at least, in every month. All the material collected is disposed of by tipping in the disused chalk pit at Nafferton Wold.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

The following tabular statement sets out the number and nature of inspections made, the types of premises visited and the purposes for which the visits were made:—

	Inspections.			No. in District.		
House, for Rural Housing Survey	664			2640	(under £20 R.V.)	
House, for all purposes except R.H.S.	123					
Houses, for all purposes, subsequent visits			8	2766	(total)	
Drainage works			31	-		
Water supplies			18	-		
Shops			15	44		
Meat Shops, Stalls, etc.			141	-		
Food inspection			23	-		
Ice Cream premises			6	1		
Cow-sheds and Cow-keepers			214	527		
Knacker yards			12	1		
Rats and Mice destruction			53	-		
Informal action (Houses)						79
Informal action (Cowsheds)						52
Informal action complied with (Houses)						79
Informal action complied with (Cowsheds)						51
Nuisances found and remedied						21
Houses found not to be in all respects fit for human habitation						24
Houses found overcrowded during year						38
Houses overcrowded at end of year						47
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease						6
Houses disinfected, for vermin						3
Privies converted to Pail Closets						14
Privies converted to W.C.'s						2
Pail Closets converted to W.C.'s						15
Cesspools abolished						17
New houses built—Council houses						-
New houses built—Private Enterprise						18
New houses in course of erection—Council houses						8
New houses in course of erection—Private Enterprise						1

Water Samples sent for Full Bacteriological Examination	7
Water Samples sent for Limited Bacteriological Examination	14
Water Samples sent, Reports unsatisfactory—Full	4
Water Samples sent, Reports unsatisfactory—Limited	-

Shops and Offices.

No action has been taken under either the Shops Act, 1934, or the Public Health Act, 1936, in respect of Shops or Offices.

Camping Sites.

There are no Camping Sites in the district and therefore no licences under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, have been issued.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

There are no Swimming Baths or Pool in the area, either public or private.

Eradication of Bed-Bugs.

No Council houses were found to be infested with this pest. Two houses, other than Council houses, were however found to be infested, and disinfection was carried out by the stripping of archives, skirtings, wall-papers, etc., and spraying (two applications) with "Pyagra" which proved successful in both instances.

Schools.

No action was taken by the Council in respect of sanitary accommodation and water supply to schools, but the Education Authority has caused the sanitary accommodation of one school to be revised and laid-on water supplies installed in two others.

HOUSING.

No material change in the housing situation has been brought about. The same acute shortage prevails and the effects of the war years still affects the general position. Not until a Housing Programme of some magnitude is in actual operation will any benefit be derived from action on the part of the Council. The repair of houses has been limited in consequence of the shortage of labour and materials.

During the year, Private Enterprise has provided 18 houses, 16 for letting (12 at Sledmere and 4 at Southburn), and 2 for owner occupation. In addition, the conversion of 10 large houses into 20 separate units has given an additional 10 separate dwellings. No conversions or adaptations have been undertaken by the Council.

In no case has the provision of Prefabricated Houses, either temporary or permanent, been resorted to, neither has any action been taken regarding Swedish Timber Houses. This fact applies to both the Council and Private Enterprise.

Regarding the Council's Post-War Housing Programme the Housing Committee has further considered the needs of the district as a whole. The Council's Architect has submitted house plans, and site plans, and a commencement on the Programme took effect when a Contract was entered into for the erection of 32 houses at Beeford (8), North Frodingham (8), Nafferton (8), Wansford (4) and Skerne (4). At the end of the year 8 of these houses were under construction at Beeford.

Regarding Statutory action, under the existing conditions of acute shortage it is not possible to take necessary action under the Housing or Public Health Acts, and no Statutory notices have been served.

Overcrowding is bound to occur with the existence of the acute shortage of houses and 38 cases were investigated during the year; 5 cases were relieved and 47 remained at the end of the year. These 47 cases affected 71 families and 292 persons.

Work on the Rural Housing Survey was continued, and during the year 664 houses were inspected and categorised. At the end of the year a total of 1,168 houses had been dealt with out the 2,640 which come under the £20 Rateable Value. The following table shows, in detail, the progress made in this work up to the end of the year:—

No of houses in district, 2,766; No. under £20 Rateable Value, 2,640.

At end of Year:	No. of inspections:	Categories.					Found overcrowded
		1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	
1945	504	47	67	176	-	214	14
1946	664	72	87	324	-	181	38
Total:—	1168	119	154	500	-	395	47

It is to be noted that Category 4 in the above table was included for houses which are suitable for dealing with under the Housing (Rural Workers') Acts, but, as these Acts are no longer in operation, this Category is blank although quite a number of those included in Category 5 would be eligible for it if the Acts were still in operation.

The Survey has been carried out by a Housing Survey Assistant operating under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector and in accordance with the recommendations prescribed by the East Riding Rural Advisory Committee. The information obtained is invaluable and provides a sound base upon which revision of changing details such as ownership and occupancy, when required, can readily be brought up-to-date.

At the end of 1945, the first appointed Survey Assistant left the services of the Council and it was not until the 1st April, 1946, that his successor commenced duties, thereby causing a hold-up of work on the survey during the interim period.

FOOD.

Milk Supply.

The national effort, through the War Agricultural Executive Committee, the County Council, and the Public Health Department of this Council, to bring about an increased milk production, has continued unabated. The aim is of course, to persuade non-producers to become producers and existing producers to produce more, at the same time to secure improvements in cowshed and dairy construction together with the application of modern and hygienic methods of milking, cooling, cleansing of utensils, feeding, etc.

Liason between the Officers of the three authorities has continued and satisfactory co-operation is well maintained, with excellent results. The technical advice available is very much appreciated by the milk producers and advantage taken of it.

Improvements to cowsheds have been carried out and many farm buildings not previously used as cowsheds and dairies have been converted for use in this respect. These conversions have been carried out with a view to a standard being attained whereby application for licences for "Designated" milks can be made. The facilities provided by the Council's water mains is a factor which adds greatly to the desire for modern and hygienic methods of milk production.

At the end of the year the number of cowsheds and dairies on the register was 527. The number of inspections made was 214, in consequence of which 37 contraventions of the Milk and Dairies Orders for cleansing, 12 in respect of construction and 3 for utensils were found; 36, 12 and 3 respectively being remedied.

Meat and Other Foods.

No centralised slaughtering is carried out in the district. The Central Slaughter-house for the area is situate in the Driffield Urban District. All meat is collected from the Central Slaughter-house by the 11 butchers in the Rural District and retailed from their own premises chiefly by their own vans. Driffield Butchers also retail meat, by vans, in the Rural area.

Shops, vehicles, and places where food is prepared have received attention and 141 inspections have been made. These premises, etc., have all been found kept in a cleanly condition and no action has been necessary.

Unsound Foodstuffs found, surrendered and destroyed, include 329½ lbs. of various meats in tins, 181½ lbs. of flour, 11 lbs. of jam, 38 lbs. of "Plasmon" oats in packets, 2 lbs. of beans in tins, and 13 tins of milk; a total of 562½ lbs. and 13 tins.

CONTROL OF CIVIL BUILDING.

The additional duties placed upon the department by the Ministry of Works for operating the Control of Civil Building has been continued throughout the year and has called for a very considerable amount of the Sanitary Inspector's time in dealing with applications, preparation of licences, records, and returns.

During the year, 336 licences were issued, as under:—

In respect of:	No. of Licences:	No. of Houses:	Amount:
New house*	7	15	£17,395
Conversions or Adaptions	10	extra 10 units	£4,248
Repairs, etc.:			
Housing	200	-	£15,091
Other premises	119	-	£6,157
Totals:	336	-	£42,891

* One licence in respect of one new house at an estimated cost of £1,150 lapsed, and the proposal was not proceeded with. It is included in the above table.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following cases were notified in 1946:—

				Civilian	Services & P.O.W.
Measles	....	....	....	4	0
Whooping Cough	....	....	....	26	0
Scarlet Fever	....	....	....	3	1
Chicken Pox	....	....	....	20	1
Pneumonia	....	....	....	12	1
Diphtheria	....	....	....	0	2
Erysipelas	....	....	....	1	0
Puerperal Pyrexia	....	....	....	1	0
Ophthalmia Nistratorum	....	....	....	1	0

Tuberculosis.

Seven cases were notified. 5 being Tuberculosis of the lungs, one of the hip and one of glands.

I have to thank the Clerk and Sanitary Inspector for their help in compiling this report.

I remain,

Your obedient Servant,

Nafferton.

ALAN MILNER, M.B.

